

Michael Sprague

From: Michael Sprague
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2018 3:00 PM
Subject: Trail News

Hello Trails Council Members,

Fortunately for us, there continues to be a lot of things going on around the state regarding trails. However, before I get to the Trail News, I wanted to remind everyone of the upcoming **Spring Quarterly Arkansas Trails Council Meeting** at **10:00 on Thursday, April 5** at **Pinnacle Mountain State Park Visitor Center**. It should be good. We will have some initial renderings of Arkansas Trails System logo that we will be voting on later in the summer.

In case you all are not familiar with what we are doing, we will be creating **signs with the Arkansas Trails System logo** to be **placed at trailheads** of trails designated as part of the Arkansas Trails System. This summer, we will be selecting a logo that will be used for that. The selection will be between the current logo and any logos you all would like to submit. If you know anyone that likes to mess around with graphic design, please let them know about this. This is a great opportunity to get a cool design created that may possibly be seen and linked with great trails around the state. The idea is that since we need to get these signs made, now is a good time to re-evaluate our Arkansas Trails System logo and see if we want to continue with what we have or go with something new. I have already seen a couple of new versions and they look really good, however all of these will be put out there for members see and vote on in the upcoming months. It would be great to see some more versions, so please send in any logo renditions to me.

So on to the Trail News:

Arkansas Trail News:

The status of what has become one of Arkansas' most famous bridges—the **Historic White River Bridge at Clarendon**—is still in limbo, however things may not remain that way. Arkansas Department of Transportation recently **opened bids to demolish the bridge**, however, by the request of a judge, the department is **waiting until a hearing in February**. Here are a couple of articles about that:

- <http://www.nwaonline.com/news/2018/jan/18/state-acts-to-raze-clarendon-bridge-201/>
- <http://www.nwaonline.com/news/2018/jan/25/old-bridge-gets-few-weeks-reprieve-2018/>

Since then, an interview with the Clarendon mayor and some opposing opinions were written up:

Feature Article **interview with Mayor Stinson:**

- <http://www.nwaonline.com/news/2018/jan/21/struggling-delta-town-sees-possibilitie/>

Opinion (Local resident's **concern about the financial and environmental impact of keeping for bridge**):

- <http://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2018/feb/04/is-this-bridge-worth-saving-high-risk-2/>

Opinion (Friends of Historic White River Bridge at Clarendon Part 1 & 2 **in favor of keeping the bridge**):

- <http://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2018/feb/12/win-win-win-lose-20180212/>
- <http://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2018/feb/15/personal-mission-20180215/>

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette Opinion:

- <http://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2018/feb/17/a-certain-connection-20180217/>

Little Rock Central High rated on the **top ten sites** on the **United States Civil Rights Trail**:

- <http://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2018/jan/15/new-us-civil-rights-trail-includes-little-rock-cen/>
- <http://www.thv11.com/news/history/arkansas-makes-top-10-on-us-civil-rights-trail/509030181>

Two people significant to trails in Arkansas retired recently.

The **Buffalo National River's** pioneering **Superintendent Kevin Cheri Retires** and leaves behind a legacy of breaking down negative stereotypes and establishing more trails:

- <https://www.news-leader.com/story/news/local/ozarks/2017/12/08/death-threats-big-successes-buffalo-river-park-chief-has-seen-all/931783001/>

Cheri honored with a **Regional Director's Award of Outstanding Service**:

- http://harrisondaily.com/news/buffalo-national-river-superintendent-kevin-cheri-honored-tuesday/article_35fee30-df7f-11e7-83bd-c7f6c80b3c7a.html

Mack Hollis, Russellville Parks Director, retires—says creating trails were his favorite projects:

- <http://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2017/dec/31/russellville-parks-director-leaves-trail-accomplis/>

New **Arkansas Tourism Director Jim Dailey** highlights **trails and trail activities** as important to tourism in the state:

- <http://www.hotsr.com/news/2018/jan/23/mayor-of-arkansas-20180123/>

Jeff Speck, a well-known city planner who focusses on walkability (and bikability), spoke recently in Fayetteville as “Part 2” of the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission’s ***Growing Mobility in a Growing Region Series***. He had a lot of fascinating things to say regarding the **design of a city in relation to its desirability (and a safety) as a place to live**. His **lecture** has a lot of real good information about urban design, and here it is in its **full-length**:

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n_vw3o9MUZY

Jeff Speck’s Website:

- <http://www.jeffspeck.com/>

Also in multi-media, the **Ozark Highlands Trail** was featured on **The Trail Show—a long-distance trail podcast**—with an interview of Steven Parker from the Ozark Highlands Trail Association. The interview **starts at 41:20** and lasts a little over 20 minutes.

- <http://thetrailshow.com/the-trail-show-60-the-oh/>

The Trail Show’s Main Page:

- <http://thetrailshow.com/>

Also relating the **Ozark Highlands Trail**, work is being made on its **eastern side** in a larger effort to connect with Missouri’s Ozark Trail:

- <http://www.baxterbulletin.com/story/news/local/2018/01/26/volunteers-help-make-ohr-reality/1070237001/>

Here are some of the projects making the news recently in Eastern Arkansas:

Pine Bluff’s 5-mile **Lake Saracen Walking Trail** completion was recently celebrated a few months ago, giving residents a great place to go:

- <http://www.pbcommercial.com/news/20171113/lake-saracen-walking-trail-has-been-completed>

Trails have been in the news lately for **Jonesboro**.

A public meeting was recently held to discuss plans being created for a **bicycle-pedestrian greenway** around **Jonesboro**:

- <http://www.kait8.com/story/37519455/public-meeting-held-for-bike-and-pedestrian-trail>

Jonesboro is also **buying land to build mountain bike trails** and will also be **building a pump track**:

Land to build mountain bike trails:

- <http://www.wmcactionnews5.com/story/37499884/city-eyes-acreage-near-craighead-forest-park>

Pump track:

- <http://www.kait8.com/story/37308804/city-approves-pump-track-for-craighead-forest-park>

Recent City Council news regarding pump track:

- <http://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2018/feb/17/jonesboro-bike-track-requires-budget-ri/>

Much is also going on in Russellville and Western Arkansas:

Russellville and Arkansas Tech have recently opened a new trail and plan to build another one.

A **trail in Russellville connecting Arkansas Tech, the Russellville Aquatics Center and Bona Dea Trails** was opened in the fall:

- <http://www.arkansastechnews.com/community/russellville-atu-celebrate-opening-of-trail/>

Pedestrian Bridge and Trail to be built on **Arkansas Tech University** campus:

- <http://www.arkansasmatters.com/news/local-news/construction-of-bridge-and-pedestrian-trail-approved-by-atu-board-of-trustees/924076910>

With trails being built, the **Russellville** Advertising and Promotion Commission has decided to make **maps of the city's trails**:

- <http://www.couriernews.com/Content/Default/Local-News/Article/Tourism-board-OKs-map-of-city-trails/-3/83/814>

A **Paris-to-Central City rail trail** project recently gained more support. This time from **Western Arkansas Planning and Development District**:

- <http://www.swtimes.com/news/20171214/proposed-multi-use-trail-would-stretch-from-central-city-to-paris>

The City of **Alma** is also entering the **mountain bike** world with **trails at Lake Alma**:

- <http://www.swtimes.com/news/20180121/mountain-bike-trail-planned-at-lake-alma>
- <http://www.pressargus.com/news/20180124/alma-trails-part-of-kick-start>

Van Buren is also looking to develop some **soft surface trails** this summer and, in the future, get a good **bike-pedestrian connection with Fort Smith**:

- <http://www.arkansasnews.com/news/20180217/van-buren-marks-land-for-mountain-bike-trails-junk-fest-returns>

The City of **Fayetteville**, with help from a Walton Family Foundation grant, may also be **purchasing land for more mountain bike trails**:

- <https://www.fayettevilleflyer.com/2018/02/13/walton-grant-could-help-fund-228-acre-mountain-bike-park-in-fayetteville/>
- <http://www.nwaonline.com/news/2018/feb/18/land-deal-offers-recreation-preservation/>

The City of **Fayetteville** may also soon pass a **smoking ban** in their **parks and trails**:

- <http://www.nwaonline.com/news/2018/feb/11/proposal-would-ban-smoking-in-fayettevi/>

Official names have been established for **Fayetteville's Mount Kessler trails**, including one named for a Grateful Dead song:

- <https://www.fayettevilleflyer.com/2018/02/01/kessler-mountain-trail-names-finalized/>

Money Magazine ranked **Fayetteville** the **number one place for singles to live** in the United States. Trails were list as one of the reasons:

- <http://time.com/money/5141644/best-places-to-live-singles/>

A section of the Frisco Trail part of the Razorback Greenway will be improved soon:

- <https://www.fayettevilleflyer.com/2018/02/16/frisco-trail-section-to-close-for-concrete-replacement/>

- <http://www.nwaonline.com/news/2018/feb/17/section-of-frisco-trail-in-fayetteville/?news-arkansas-nwa>

A little further north in **Springdale mountain bike trails** are to be **built around an historic site**:

- <http://www.nwaonline.com/news/2017/dec/24/group-buys-springdale-historic-site-201-1/>

And a **mountain bike skills park** is to be built at **Springdale's Jones Center**:

- <https://www.carrollconews.com/story/2480647.html>
- <http://www.nwaonline.com/news/2018/jan/11/runway-bike-park-coming-to-springdale-s/>
- <http://www.nwahomepage.com/news/fox-24/jones-center-receives-grant-for-mountain-bike-skills-park/909855303>

Even further up north, **Rogers and Bentonville** received **\$3.1 million** in grants from the Walton Family Foundation to **improve the Razorback Greenway**:

- <http://www.nwaonline.com/news/2017/dec/17/3-1m-in-grants-to-help-2-cities-update/>

Also in the area will be **IMBA's first-ever Women's Bicycle Summit** to be held in **Bentonville** this spring:

- <https://www.imba.com/press-release/UPRISING>
- <https://www.bicycleretailer.com/industry-news/2018/02/16/imba-plans-its-first-womens-summit#.WoxKUnzavGg>

Here's a write-up regarding **Bentonville and Rogers' Trail of Two Cities** trail:

- <http://www.nwaonline.com/news/2018/feb/20/greenway-spurs-add-to-biking-walking-en/>

Much is also going on in **Eureka Springs**.

Eureka Springs is building **downhill mountain bike trails** at **Lake Leatherwood**:

- <http://www.carrollconews.com/story/2467929.html>

18 miles of Mountain bike trails to be built at **Eureka Springs Passion Play**:

- <https://www.carrollconews.com/story/2480647.html>

Out in the rural Ozarks, mountain bikes have arrived literally. **Kingston, Jasper and Oark Schools** get **mountain bikes** thanks to a grant from the Walton Family Foundation:

- http://newtoncountytimes.com/news/cycle-kids-wheels-into-jasper-school-district/article_387f10d2-ff90-11e7-9e04-6fedc16f2a6f.html
- http://newtoncountytimes.com/opinion/hello-newton-county/article_2e82df5c-ffa2-11e7-8398-935112464767.html

More news regarding trails is happening closer to Central Arkansas also.

Here's a nice write-up on the **history** of the **Heber Springs' Sugarloaf Mountain Trail**: Graffiti removal effort brings community together and leads to trail system creation:

- <http://www.thesuntimes.com/news/20180120/sugarloaf>

A **Conway trail pedestrian bridge** is set to **begin construction** in the spring:

- <http://www.thecabin.net/news/20180128/pedestrian-bridge>

A write-up on **Conway's growth as a desirable place** to be **includes trails** as one of the main examples:

- <http://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2018/feb/11/conway-gets-it-20180211/>

Southwest Trail is awarded \$400,000 through **Transportation Alternative Program funds** distributed by Central Arkansas' Metroplan:

- <http://www.nwaonline.com/news/2018/feb/01/metroplan-allots-1-6m-for-transport-pla/>
- <http://www.arkansasnews.com/news/20180220/southwest-trail-receives-less-funding-than-recommended>

Also in Central Arkansas, a new 12-foot-wide, **multi-use trail is planned** to be constructed at **Pinnacle Mountain Park** connecting the West-Side parking and trailhead area with the park's arboretum:

- <http://www.nwaonline.com/news/2018/jan/29/state-park-out-to-blaze-new-trail-20180/>

Arkansas State Parks proposes to improve **Mount Magazine** by building a **multi-use trail** to connect cabins:

- <http://www.boonevilledemocrat.com/news/20180214/forest-service-initiating-public-comment-period-on-mount-magazine-state-park-project>

Central Arkansas Trail Alliance (CATA) recently elected a new executive committee with **Paul Norris as President** and **Joe Jacobs as Vice President**. Matt Goddard will still stay on in the role of Immediate Past President. Here is a link to their Facebook Page with more information on that:

- <https://www.facebook.com/CentralARTrail/>

Babe Ruth descendants are coming to Hot Springs to dedicate markers on the **Hot Springs Historic Baseball Trail**:

- <http://www.arkansasnews.com/news/20180116/descendants-of-babe-ruth-to-be-in-hot-springs-in-march>

Also, Visit Hot Springs is **soliciting mural proposals** for the **Hot Springs Historic Baseball Trail**:

- <http://www.hotsr.com/news/2018/jan/24/baseball-history-mural-planned-20180124/>

And on an out-of-state trip by an Arkansan—a write-up of **Arkansas adventurer Jim Warnock's Sierra Nevada trip**:

- <http://www.nwaonline.com/news/2018/feb/13/backpackers-go-the-distance-20180213/>

Jim Warnock's Website which includes a video slide show of the Ouachita Trail:

- <https://ozarkmountainhiker.com/>

Other Trail News:

I was entertained by this and thought some of you may also be. **Bicycle race trough someone's house**:

- <https://deadspin.com/bike-race-course-goes-directly-through-mans-living-room-1822968711>

We don't have the climate for this, however it's also cool. **Toronto's Skate Trail**:

- <https://www.curbed.com/2018/1/5/16853904/bentway-toronto-park-skate-trail>
- <http://urbantoronto.ca/database/projects/bentway-was-under-gardiner>
- <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/toronto/torontos-bentway-skate-trail-under-gardiner-set-to-open-this-weekend/article37512987/>

Mount St. Helens trail system—after the eruption. Since the trails were destroyed in the eruption in 1980, the Mount St. Helens area was able to get a new slate to **re-do** the whole trail system:

- <https://www.wta.org/news/magazine/features/st-helens-changing-story-of-trails>

To save on expenses, **Asheville** may choose **not to pave** some of their **greenways**:

- <http://www.citizen-times.com/story/news/local/2017/12/10/asheville-greenway-shortage-paved-vs-unpaved-french-broad-greenway/931903001/>

Two very long trail projects are to be linked in New Brunswick, Canada—the **East Coast Greenway**, which is a project to link trails up the East Coast from Key West to Canada, and the **Trans-Canada Trail**, which is a project to link a trail east-west, across Canada. I don't have the mileage, however I think this would be **the longest trail in the world**:

- <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/saint-john-st-stephen-trail-network-1.4474371>

East Coast Greenway Website:

- <https://www.greenway.org/>

Trans Canada Trail Websites:

- <http://www.tctrail.ca/>
- <https://thegreattrail.ca/>

I hope you all get a chance to enjoy an Arkansas Trail soon!

Thanks,

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